United Nations

A/56/779–S/2002/82

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 10, 20, 21 (d), 25, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49, 52, 55, 58, 62, 71, 77, 87, 88, 101, 118 and 166

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Letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group, to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué adopted at the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at the United Nations Headquarters on 15 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty sixth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 20, 21 (d), 25, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49, 52, 55, 58, 62, 71, 77, 87, 88, 101, 118 and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali to
the United Nations

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

United Nations –New York
30 Shaa'ban 1422H
15 November 2001

1. The Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, was convened on 30 Shaa'ban 1422H (15 November 2001) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Modibo Sidibe, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Mali, Chairman of the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

2. The Meeting was addressed by His Excellency Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi ,United Nations Secretary -General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

<u>The issue of international terrorism</u>:

3. The Meeting reiterated the commitment of all Member States to the Final Communiqué issued by the Ninth Extraordinary Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 10 October 2001, on the issue of international terrorism, and strongly condemned the terrorist acts in New York and Washington. It reaffirmed that these acts ran counter to the teachings of all divine religions, including Islam, as well as the commonly held ethical and human values. It further reaffirmed the necessity of tracking down the perpetrators of these acts on the basis of reliable investigations, and of bringing them to justice. This would be consistent with the principles of Islam which spurns aggression, calls for peace, coexistence, tolerance and respect among peoples, upholds the dignity of human life, and prohibits killing of the innocent.

4. The Meeting, on the basis of the relevant provisions of the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, reaffirmed the willingness of its Member States to: effectively contribute to an international collective effort under the auspices of the United Nations; define terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, without the exercise of selectivity or double standards; and address its causes, eradicate its roots and achieve international security and stability, distinguishing clearly between terrorism and legitimate struggle against foreign occupation.

5. The Meeting noted with appreciation the determined efforts of the Government of the United States, and of some other countries towards safeguarding the interests of all persons of Islamic descent, and protecting them from all forms of xenophobia and stereotyping, and called upon States and the international community to undertake similar measures to protect innocent persons from any harm resulting from preventive measures in the fight against terrorism.

6. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to reflect the rejection, by the international community, of the use of terrorism in international relations; to agree on its definition; and to draw up an international plan to fight terrorism in accordance with international law, and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. The meeting rejected the targeting of any OIC Member State under the pretext of fighting against terrorism.

7. The Meeting stressed that peoples' struggle, including armed struggle against foreign occupation, aggression, colonialism, and hegemony, aimed at liberation and self-determination, in accordance with the principles of international law, shall not be considered a terrorist crime.

<u>The question of Palestine , Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Arab-Israeli conflict</u>

8. The Meeting reiterated its unwavering support for the Palestinian people and the realization of their inalienable rights, including the establishment of their own independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The Meeting reaffirmed the centrality of the issue of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to the entire Islamic Ummah, and stressed the absolute necessity for regaining Palestinian sovereignty over Al-Haram Al-Sharif and other Islamic and Christian sites of the city.

9. The Meeting expressed grave concern at the continuation of the Israeli bloody military campaign against the Palestinian people, which began on 28 September 2000. The Meeting condemned the excessive use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, resulting in extensive loss of Palestinian life, injuries, and widespread destruction of Palestinian homes and property. The Meeting also condemned other Israeli measures and practices, such as the imposition of closures, extra-judicial killings, the reoccupation of areas under full Palestinian control, and the continuation of colonial activities in the form of building and expanding illegal settlements in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

10. The Meeting reaffirmed its support for a peaceful solution of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and ,the establishment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Meeting stressed the need for fresh and qualitative efforts to bring the Middle East peace process back to life and to take it to its successful conclusion on its agreed basis- Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace. The Meeting, in this regard, reaffirmed the absolute necessity for ending the Israeli occupation of all Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

11. The Meeting stressed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine, and in this regard, stressed also the responsibility of the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Meeting reiterated its support for resolutions and initiatives related to the question of Palestine at the United Nations. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the efforts of the OIC Committee on Palestine at the United Nations, and the Al-Quds Committee, for its valuable work on this central issue.

12. The Meeting condemned Israel's policy of refusal to comply with Security Council resolution no.497 of 1981, the imposition of its laws, jurisdiction and administration over the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as its policy of annexation, establishment of colonial settlements, land confiscation, diverting water resources and imposing Israeli nationality on Syrian citizens of the occupied Golan. The Meeting also underlined that all such measures are null and void and constitute a blatant violation of the principles of international law, and in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949; and demanded that Israel withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of June 4, 1967. The Meeting reiterated its support for the Middle East peace process according to the Madrid terms of reference, based on the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), and land for peace principle.

13. The Meeting called for an end to the continuing Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reaffirmed the absolute necessity for the immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese Shab'a farmlands. Furthermore, the Meeting demanded that Israel release the Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails, and expressed support for maintaining the present mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and for providing assistance in the demining activities in South Lebanon.

14. The Meeting urged the international community and the Security Council to compel Israel to abide by United Nations resolutions, specially Security Council resolution no. 487 of 1981; insist that it joins the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and implements the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), according to which all Israeli nuclear installations must be subjected to the Agency's system of comprehensive guarantees; and request that Israel publicly renounce nuclear armaments , and submits a complete statement on its capabilities and reserves in terms of nuclear arms and substances to both the Security Council and the IAEA, as a pre-requisite to the creation of an area free of weapons of mass destruction, foremost among which are the nuclear ones, in the Middle East and the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The situation in Afghanistan

15. The Meeting reviewed the current situation in Afghanistan and urged the need for an early end to the conflict. In this regard, the Meeting expressed its grave concern over the recent deaths of innocent civilians in Afghanistan. The Meeting supported the establishment of a broad based, multi-ethnic government in Afghanistan, representative of the wishes of Afghan people, which should abide by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The Meeting also reiterated the need for ensuring the unity, territorial integrity and Islamic identity of Afghanistan.

16. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and urged the international community to respond urgently and generously to the repeated calls for assistance for alleviating the plight of the Afghan people, both inside Afghanistan and in other countries, in particular the neighboring countries. In this regard it recognized and appreciated the role of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing shelter to millions of Afghan refugees and stressed that specific assistance to these countries was needed.

17. The Meeting welcomed the resolution adopted by the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Doha, on 10 of October 2001, related to the establishment of an OIC fund for the provision of humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people, and urged the need for evolving a comprehensive post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for Afghanistan.

18. The Meeting welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, and resolved to extend full support and cooperation of the Member States and of the OIC General Secretariat to Ambassador Brahimi in the fulfillment of his mission.

Jammu and Kashmir dispute

19. On the question of Jammu and Kashmir, the Meeting reiterated the position adopted at the Twenty-eighth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Bamako, Republic of Mali from 25 to 27 June 2001, reaffirming its support for the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The Meeting also appreciated the initiative taken by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for a serious and result-oriented dialogue with India with a view to resolving all outstanding disputes, in particular the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, while welcoming the summit level talks between Pakistan and India at Agra in July 2001, the Meeting expressed the hope that the talks will be resumed soon for a just and equitable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

20. The Meeting was addressed by the True Representatives of Jammu and Kashmir. It took note of the memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of the People of Jammu and Kashmir.

The aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan

21. The Meeting reiterated its condemnation of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law ensuring the Republic of Azerbaijan's rights to national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It called for total withdrawal of the occupation forces of the Republic of Armenia from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822,853,874 and 884 of 1993. It also invited the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to implement its own decisions as adopted at the Budapest and Lisbon Summits (1994 and 1996,respectively) in accordance with the principles enshrined therein, aimed at peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The situation in Sierra Leone

22. The Meeting reiterated its support to the Government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to reestablish its authority over all its territories. It welcomed the first visit of the OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone to Freetown, from 22 to 24 August 2001, to assess the situation in the country, and to determine the contribution from the OIC, in pursuant of OIC resolution no. 51/27-P. In this regard, the Meeting agreed to the need to support the implementation of the Lomé Agreement by providing assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone in order to conduct the democratic elections scheduled in 2001; the provision of necessary assistance to neighboring countries faced with the influx of refugees; promoting investment by both the public and private sectors of Member States so as to take advantage of the potentials that exist in Sierra Leone, and requested the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to consider financing and undertaking a feasibility study on macroeconomic planning in Sierra Leone. The Meeting also agreed to the establishment of a trust fund to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. It expressed its appreciation to the members of the OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone on the work conducted thus far.

The situation in Cyprus

23. The Meeting expressed its firm support for the rightful cause of the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus, and reaffirmed its resolutions and declarations on Cyprus. It called for a just and negotiated settlement that would respect their legitimate aspirations. It emphasized the key importance of respect of the principle of equal political status in promoting a negotiated settlement acceptable to both the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides, and to this effect it called on the two sides to reciprocally acknowledge each other's equal status in order to pave the way for a lasting solution. In this respect it welcomed the statement made by the United Nations Secretary-General on 12 September 2000 (SG/SM/7546) at the outset of the fourth round of proximity talks.

24. The Meeting was addressed by the Representative of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus.

The situation in Somalia

25. The Meeting reaffirmed its respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia. It also reiterated its support for the Arta Process as the only viable option towards peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. In this regard, the Meeting stated its continued support for the Transitional National Government of Somalia. It reaffirmed its condemnation of the warlords who continue to be an obstacle to peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. The Meeting commended the efforts exerted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the League of Arab States, as well as friendly States to resolve the Somali issue, and urged the countries of the Sub-region to play a constructive role and refrain from interference in the internal affairs of Somalia. It also urged the OIC Contact Group on Somalia to continue to raise urgently the financial resources needed for peace, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Somalia.

The United States armed aggression on Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum

26. The Meeting expressed it's full support for the Republic of the Sudan to set up an international committee of inquiry under the auspices of the Security Council to investigate United States allegations concerning the production by the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant of toxic chemical gases. It called again on the Government of the United States of America to respond positively to the Sudan's request. It asserted its solidarity with the Sudan in confronting hostile designs led by the United States against its security and national unity.

United States aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

27. The Meeting reaffirmed its solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its support for its right to claim compensation for damages sustained as a result of the United States aggression of 1986 in accordance with resolution 41\38 of 20 November 1986 of the United Nations General Assembly. It renewed its call on the United States to abide by this resolution and resort to peaceful means in order to settle its differences with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Final lifting of sanctions on Libya

28. The Meeting called on the United Nations Security Council to immediately and definitely lift sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya now that it has complied with the requirements stipulated in the Security Council resolutions in this respect. It regretted the condemnation of one of the two Libyan citizens, and called on international public opinion to denounce the political motives that led to imposing, on the Libyan citizen Abdulbaset Al-Mugrahi, a verdict which legal experts have criticized for several legal flaws, and called for his release. It reaffirmed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's right to compensation for the damage it has suffered as a result of the sanctions imposed on it.

Solidarity with Iran and Libya against D'Amato Amendment

29. The Meeting reaffirmed its solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in their stand against the so-called D'Amato Amendment. It reiterated its rejection of all arbitrary or unilateral measures of political or legal character undertaken by any State, and called upon all countries to consider this law contrary to the norms of international law and consequently null and void.

Unilateral economic sanctions

30. The Meeting called on all the States that impose unilateral sanctions on OIC Member States to desist from such practices in view of their contradiction with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. It expressed solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of the Sudan, and other States suffering under unilateral economic sanctions.

The Situation in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros

31. The Meeting affirmed its support to the efforts of the Government of Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros aimed at achieving national reconciliation. It welcomed the positive development in the situation in the Republic of the Comoros, and expressed its satisfaction to the project of the constitution aimed at establishing a new entity in the Comoros which guarantees the unity of the country, its territorial integrity and offers a large self-autonomy to the different Islands.

United Nations reform and expansion of the Security Council

32. The Meeting reiterated the Islamic Group's stance in support of the principle of the United Nations reform, including the expansion of the Security Council's membership, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, and taking into consideration the equitable geographic distribution and the States' equal right to sovereignty. It also called for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects so as to make it more democratic, representative, transparent and accountable.

33. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Turkey to convene in Istanbul next year, a joint forum of Foreign Ministers of OIC members and observers and European Union members and candidate countries for accession, to contribute to a better understanding and harmony at the universal level. It called upon the Member States to participate in the Istanbul forum and requested the General Secretariat of the OIC to contribute to the said forum.

34. The Meeting welcomed the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to host the 29th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers , in a date to be determined in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.

35. The Meeting expressed its deep appreciation to the valuable efforts exerted by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and Chairman of the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit, in supporting the common Islamic action and to defend the interests of the Islamic Ummah, as well as hosting many extraordinary Islamic conferences in Doha, and for his support to all the efforts aimed at helping the Afghan people in their current plight, and supporting the Palestinian people in face of the ferocious campaign and state terrorism practiced by Israel.

36. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary -General of the OIC for the reforms of the Organization in accordance with the relevant Islamic Summit and ICFM resolutions.

37. The Meeting expressed appreciation and satisfaction for the excellent performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

New York,30 Shaa'ban 1422H,
15 November 2001